

## FS 3000. SOIL

See also the following Standard Operating Procedures:

- FA 1000 and 2000 Administrative Procedures
- FC 1000 Cleaning/Decontamination Procedures
- FD 1000-9000 Documentation Procedures
- FM 1000 Field Planning and Mobilization
- FQ 1000 Field Quality Control Requirements
- FS 1000 General Sampling Procedures
- FT 1000 General Field Testing and Measurement

### 1. INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE

1.1. Use these SOPs during field investigations to collect soil samples that are representative of current site conditions. It is very important to ensure that the collected samples are neither altered nor contaminated by sampling and handling techniques.

1.2. The following topics include: equipment choice, equipment construction materials, grab and areal or depth composite sampling techniques. Sample collection methods fall into three general depth classifications: surface, shallow subsurface, and deep subsurface. Once the samples are acquired, the handling procedures are very similar and are described below.

### 2. GENERAL

2.1. Select sampling equipment based on the type of sample to be collected and the analytes of interest. Choose soil sampling locations such that a representative portion of the soil is collected with minimal disturbance. Locations where natural vegetation is stressed or dead and/or areas that have surficial soil staining may be indicative of improper waste disposal practices.

2.2. If background and/or quality control sampling is warranted and feasible as determined in the site's work plan or by the project manager, select an upgradient, undisturbed location for obtaining the background and/or quality control samples. Be aware that differences in soil types may affect these background samples (e.g., sands vs. clays).

2.3. **Do not collect** samples for chemical analysis from auger flights or cuttings from hollow stem auger flights, except for waste characterization purposes for disposal.

2.4. Do not use samples that are collected for geological/lithological or vapor meter determinations for chemical analyses.

### 3. EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES

3.1. All equipment must be constructed of materials consistent with the analytes of interest. Refer to FS 1000, Table FS 1000-3 for selection of appropriate equipment.

3.2. For information on sample container size and construction, see FS 1000, Table FS 1000-6.

3.3. For information on sampling equipment cleaning requirements, see FC 1000.

3.4. For information on preservation and holding time requirements, see FS 1000, Table FS 1000-6.

3.5. For information on documentation requirements, see FD 1000.

#### 4. PROCEDURES FOR COMPOSITING

4.1. The following is not a complete discussion regarding all available sampling protocols nor the appropriateness or inappropriateness of compositing soil samples. The appropriateness of compositing soil samples will depend on the data quality objectives of the project. However, it is sometimes advantageous to composite soil samples and thus minimize the number of samples to be analyzed when sampling highly contaminated areas. Obtain permission from the FDEP program.

4.1.1. Select sampling points from which to collect each aliquot.

4.1.2. Using the appropriate sampling technique, collect equal aliquots (same sample size) from each location and place in a properly cleaned container.

4.1.3. **Do not mix sample aliquots before containerizing.**

4.1.4. Record the amount of each aliquot (volume or weight).

4.1.5. Label container, preserve on wet ice to 4°C and complete field notes.

4.1.6. Notify the laboratory that the sample is an unmixed composite sample, and request that the sample be thoroughly mixed before sample preparation or analysis.

#### 5. SPECIFIC PROCEDURES FOR VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS

Follow the procedures specified in EPA Method 5035 for sample collection and sample preparation. The protocols listed below **do not replace Method 5035** but clarify and/or modify certain method procedures. Therefore, it is essential that all organizations have a copy of Method 5035 as a reference document.

##### 5.1. Container Preparation

5.1.1. All containers must be cleaned according to the FC 1000 sample container cleaning procedures for volatile organics.

5.1.2. Sample Vials: If sample vials are filled in the field, they must be provided with all reagents, stirring devices, label **and vial cap** to be used during sample analysis. These vials must be preweighed by the laboratory and records must be maintained so that there is an unambiguous link between the tare weight and the filled sample vial.

##### 5.2. Collection Procedure

5.2.1. The sample vials (when used) will contain a premeasured amount of liquid. The laboratory must weigh the vials before sending into the field, and must weigh them again after receipt. Therefore:

- Do not lose any of the liquid either through evaporation or spillage
- Do not use a vial if some of the contents has spilled, or if it appears that some has leaked during transport
- Use the laboratory-supplied container label for identification information. **DO NOT apply any additional labels to the container**

- Do not interchange vial caps or septa
- 5.2.2. Minimize exposure to air by obtaining the sample directly from the sample source, using a coring device or a commercially designed sampling tool.
- 5.2.2.1. The sample collection device must be designed to fit tightly against the mouth of the vial or be small enough to be inserted into the vial.
- EnCore or equivalent sampling devices may be used.
  - Disposable plastic syringes with the syringe end cut off prior to sampling may only be used **once** per sampling location.
- 5.2.2.2. Extrude the sample directly into the sample container.
- 5.2.3. Follow the method procedures for field transfer into the vial.
- 5.2.4. Procedures for determining the sample weight in the field are not required unless the project manager requires an accurate determination of the 5-gram sample size.
- 5.2.4.1. If the vials are returned to the laboratory for weighing, the sampler must be proficient in estimating the requisite 5-gram weight necessary for each sample.
- 5.2.4.2. If an accurate estimate of the 5-gram sample size is desired prior to starting sample collection activities, use a balance with a sensitivity of 0.1 gram. Check the balance calibration before each day's use with a set of weights that have been calibrated against NIST-traceable weights at least annually.
- 5.2.5. If the sampling device is transported to the laboratory with a sample, make sure the seals are intact, especially if collecting samples from sandy soils.
- 5.2.6. Collect at least two replicate samples from the same soil stratum and within close proximity to the original sample location.
- 5.2.7. Collect an additional aliquot of sample for screening and dry weight determinations.
- 5.3. Preservation (see FS 1000, Table FS 1000-7)
- 5.3.1. Low Level (= 200 µg/kg volatile organics)
- 5.3.1.1. The method states the use of sodium bisulfate, which is an acid. Since Florida soils contain significant amounts of calcium carbonate that reacts with acids, FDEP does not recommend using this preservative.
- 5.3.1.2. Properly pack the samples (see FS 2004, section 5), and place all samples on wet ice.
- 5.3.1.3. An unpreserved sample (no acid) must be analyzed within 48 hours.
- 5.3.1.4. An acid preserved sample has a 14-day holding time.
- 5.3.1.5. An unpreserved sample in a vial with premeasured analyte-free water must be analyzed within 48 hours.
- 5.3.1.6. Holding times for unpreserved samples in vial with premeasured analyte-free water may be extended to 14 days if the laboratory freezes the samples to -10°C within 48 hours of sample collection.
- 5.3.1.7. If transported to the laboratory in a sealed coring device, the samples must be analyzed within 48 hours.

5.3.1.8. Holding times for sealed coring device samples may be extended to 14 days if the laboratory extrudes the sample into the appropriate liquid, and freezes it to -10°C.

5.3.2. High Level (> 200 µg/kg volatile organics)

5.3.2.1. Properly pack the samples (see FS 2004, section 5), and place all samples on wet ice.

5.3.2.2. If transported to the laboratory in a sealed coring device, the samples must be analyzed within 48 hours.

5.3.2.3. Holding times for sealed coring device samples may be extended to 14 days if the laboratory extrudes the sample into the appropriate liquid, and refrigerates it at 4°C.

5.3.2.4. Samples that are placed in methanol in the field have a 14-day holding time.

6. **BULK SAMPLES:** The collection of bulk samples will depend on the data quality objectives of the project.

6.1. Do not composite or mix VOC samples unless required by the FDEP program or if mandated by a formal FDEP document (permit, order or contract).

6.2. Select sampling points from which to collect each aliquot.

6.3. Using the appropriate sampling technique, collect equal aliquots (same sample size) from each location and place in a properly cleaned container.

6.3.1. **Do not mix sample aliquots before containerizing.**

6.3.2. Pack soil tightly minimizing as much headspace as possible in the sample container.

6.3.3. Cap container tightly with Teflon side facing sample.

6.4. Record the amount of each aliquot (volume or weight) in the field notes.

6.5. Label container. Refer to FS 1000, Table FS 1000-7 for preservation and holding time requirements.

6.6. Notify the laboratory that the sample is an unmixed composite sample, and request that the sample be thoroughly mixed before sample preparation or analysis.

## **FS 3100. Surface Soil Sampling**

Surface soil is generally classified as soil between the ground surface and 6-12 inches below ground surface.

1. Remove leaves, grass and surface debris from the area to be sampled.

2. Collect samples for volatile organic analyses as described in FS 3000, section 5.

3. Select an appropriate precleaned sampling device and collect the sample.

4. Transfer the sample to the appropriate sample container.

5. Clean the outside of the sample container to remove excess soil.

6. Label the sample container, place on wet ice to preserve to 4°C and complete the field notes.

## **FS 3200. Subsurface Soil Sampling**

Interval begins at approximately 12 inches below ground surface.

### **FS 3210. SAMPLE COLLECTION PROCEDURE**

Use the following after the desired depth has been reached by one of the methods outlined in FS 3220.

1. Collect samples for volatile organic analyses as described in FS 3000, section 5.
2. For other analyses, select an appropriate precleaned sampling device and collect the sample.
3. Transfer the sample to the appropriate sample container.
4. Clean the outside of the sample container to remove excess soil.
5. Label the sample container, place on wet ice to preserve to 4°C and complete the field notes.

### **FS 3220. REACHING THE APPROPRIATE DEPTH**

1. SHOVELS AND DIGGERS: Used for soils from approximately 12 inches to a point when using the implement becomes impractical.
  - 1.1. Dig a hole or trench to the required depth.
  - 1.2. Follow the sample collection procedures outlined in FS 3210.
2. BACKHOE: Used for soils from approximately 12 inches to a point when using the implement becomes impractical.
  - 2.1. Dig a trench to the appropriate depth.
  - 2.2. Expose the sample, in the trench, by using a precleaned spoon, spatula or equivalent to clean away the soil that came in contact with the backhoe bucket.
  - 2.3. Use a **second** precleaned utensil to actually collect the sample from the trench.
  - 2.4. Follow the procedures outlined in FS 3210 to collect the sample.
3. BUCKET AUGERS AND HOLLOW CORERS: Suitable to reach soils from approximately 12 inches to a point when using the implement becomes impractical.
  - 3.1. Push and rotate the auger into the soil until the bucket is filled.
  - 3.2. Addition of a non-contaminating sleeve may allow an undisturbed soil sample to be obtained.
    - 3.2.1. The device consists of a standard auger head with a removable sleeve, which is inserted into the auger barrel. In this case it is the sleeve, which fills with soil.
    - 3.2.2. Remove the sleeve from the auger and cap.
  - 3.3. If the auger hole is prone to collapse due to low cohesion in some soils, FDEP recommends inserting a temporary rigid PVC casing into the hole. The casing prevents hole collapse and minimizes cross-contamination between soil zones as the auger is advanced. After collecting the samples, remove the temporary casing (if used) and fill the hole filled with the excavated soil.

- 3.4. Remove the sample from the sampler by pushing or scraping the soil with an appropriate precleaned utensil into an appropriately precleaned tray or aluminum foil.
- 3.5. Remove any portion of the sample that has been disturbed and discard.
- 3.6. Follow the sample collection procedures outlined in FS 3210.

NOTE: If a confining layer has been breached during sampling, grout the hole to land surface with Type-1 Portland cement. This requirement may be different throughout Florida; contact the local Water Management District office for local requirements.

4. SPLIT SPOON SAMPLER: Suitable for reaching soils from approximately 12 inches to depths greater than 10 feet.

- 4.1. A split spoon sampler, useful for sampling unconsolidated soil, consists of two half cylinders (spoons) that fit together to form a tube approximately two feet in length and two inches in diameter.
  - 4.1.1. The cylindrical arrangement is maintained by a retaining head and bit rings that screw on at each end of the split spoon.
  - 4.1.2. The bit ring has beveled edges to facilitate sampling as the split spoon is forced into the ground.
  - 4.1.3. Advance the sampler using the weight of the drilling stem and rods or a mechanical hammer.
  - 4.1.4. Insert a catcher device in the head ring to prevent loss of unconsolidated sample during recovery.
- 4.2. After retrieving the split spoon sampler, expose the soil by unscrewing the bit and head rings and splitting the barrel.
- 4.3. If the recovery is enough to accommodate discarding a portion of the sample, discard the top and bottom two to three inches of the sample.
- 4.4. For volatile organic compounds collect the sample immediately from the **center portion of the split spoon** using the procedures described in FS 3000, section 5.
- 4.5. For other analyses, slice the sample from the center portion of the split spoon using a clean, decontaminated utensil.
- 4.6. Select an appropriate precleaned sampling device and collect the sample.
- 4.7. Transfer the sample to the appropriate sample container.
- 4.8. Clean the outside of the sample container to remove excess soil.
- 4.9. Label the sample container, place on wet ice to preserve to 4°C and complete the field notes.

5. DIRECT PUSH RIGS: May be used for depths greater than 10 feet below ground surface.

- 5.1. Liners: The clear liners are used with direct push rigs. This method is appropriate only for unconsolidated materials. The sampling depth that can be achieved varies depending on the rig and the lithologies that are encountered. Typically, the rig operator will:
  - Place the liner inside the metal probe rod

- Select a point holder with an opening appropriate for the site lithology and screw it on the probe rod
- Advance the rod a full rod length
- Retrieve the rod
- Remove the point holder
- Remove the liner, and
- Slice the liner to expose the soil.

5.2. After the liner has been sliced, follow the procedures outlined in FS 3220, collecting volatile organic samples (if needed) immediately after the liner is sliced.

5.3. If samples for organic vapor analysis screening are required, collect them by slicing the sample(s) using a clean, decontaminated utensil and place them in 8-ounce (preferred) or 16-ounce jars, immediately cover the opening with aluminum foil and screw on the lid ring. If the contamination is derived from petroleum products it is acceptable to use a clean gloved hand to transfer the sample(s) to the sample container(s).

5.4. For other analyses, slice the sample from the center portion of the split spoon using a clean, decontaminated utensil.

5.5. Select an appropriate precleaned sampling device and collect the sample.

5.6. Transfer the sample to the appropriate sample container.

5.7. Clean the outside of the sample container to remove excess soil.

5.8. Label the sample container, place on wet ice to preserve to 4°C and complete the field notes.

## 6. SHELBY TUBE SAMPLER

6.1. The Shelby tube sampler is used to sample unconsolidated soil and consists of a tube approximately 30 inches long and two inches (or larger) in diameter.

6.2. One end of the tube has edges beveled into a cutting edge. The other end can be mounted to an adapter, which allows attachment to the drilling rig assembly.

6.3. After drilling to the required depth with an auger or rotary drill bit, a soil sample is obtained through the auger or directly in the borehole.

6.4. Push the Shelby tube into the soil using the drilling rig's hydraulic ram or manually with a sledge hammer.

6.5. Remove the tube from the sampler head.

6.6. Extrude the sample from the Shelby tube.

6.7. Use a decontaminated utensil to remove any portion of the sample that has been disturbed.

6.8. Collect samples for volatile organics immediately from the center portion of the Shelby tube using the procedures described in FS 3000, section 5.

6.9. For other analyses, slice the sample from the center portion of the Shelby tube using a clean, decontaminated utensil.

6.10. Transfer the sample to the appropriate sample container.

6.11. Clean the outside of the sample container to remove excess soil.

6.12. Label the sample container, place on wet ice to preserve to 4°C and complete the field notes.

## 7. CORE BARREL

7.1. A standard core barrel is utilized when consolidated samples (such as limestone or dolomite) are to be sampled.

7.1.1. The core barrel is a cylinder approximately three feet long and two inches in diameter.

7.1.2. The barrel has a removable head ring with small embedded diamonds which allow the device to cut through rock or consolidated soil as the drilling rods are rotated.

7.2. Retrieve the sample core by unscrewing the head ring and sliding the sample into a precleaned container.

7.3. Use a decontaminated utensil to remove any portion of the sample that has been disturbed.

7.4. Remove the sample from the sampler (corer) with a precleaned tool.

7.5. Transfer the sample to the appropriate sample container.

7.6. Clean the outside of the sample container to remove excess soil.

7.7. Label the sample container, place on wet ice to preserve to 4°C and complete the field notes.

## **FS 3230. REFERENCES**

1. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 4, Environmental Investigations Standard Operating Procedures and Quality Assurance Manual, May 1996.

2. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Test Methods for Evaluating Solid Waste, Physical/Chemical Methods EPA SW-846, Third Edition (November 1986) as amended by Update III (December 1996).